

The Singapore Botanic Gardens and the Central Institute for Nature Research in Indonesia at Bogor

Comments on Past and Present Co-operation and the Need to Continue it

By KUSNOTO SETYODIWIRYO

*Central Institute for Nature Research
Bogor, Indonesia*

THE WELFARE and progress of a country, especially of one with an economy and industry still in its infancy, depend a great deal on its natural resources and on the ability and good sense of its leaders to exploit and to make use of this wealth in such a way as to safeguard the well-being of its people from generation to generation.

The ability to make responsible use of the natural resources rests on a vast and profound knowledge of the soils, the waters, the flora and fauna of the country as well as of its wealth of minerals that are contained in the soils.

A wise and responsible management should be based upon a good understanding of the kind and the potency of the natural resources and of the best way of utilization for the prosperity of the country and the people now and in future.

In view of the welfare and development of a nation the leaders should attempt to know their colleagues in other countries and in the neighbouring states in particular, to create and maintain a mutual understanding, trust, respect and tolerance.

If this basic principle were followed in the field of research, it might become an endeavour to create an atmosphere of international co-operation and goodwill, a sincere spirit of "give and take" with respect to research projects, achievements, views and experiences, exchange of material, and reciprocated visits for research purposes, all for a mutual benefit and improvement. Only on this basis of goodwill and readiness to trust one another can the ideals of international co-operation be truly attained.

The prosperity and achievements of a neighbour state should be greeted with sympathy and rejoicings rather than with a complex of superiority or inferiority which will undoubtedly mar the friendly relations. On the other hand, the misfortunes that befall a neighbour state should be shared, looked into, and relieved as well as possible together as members of a family.

It is in this spirit of friendliness that I wish, on behalf of the Central Institute for Nature Research in Indonesia, to convey our sincere congratulations on the occasion of the centenary anniversary of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The relations between the Central Institute for Nature Research in Indonesia and the Singapore Botanic Gardens, which has always been characterized by a mutual readiness to help one another, should, or rather needs be continued according to the good, extant tradition, and should even be expanded and intensified in the years to come.

Since the Central Institute for Nature Research in Indonesia, better known by the name of "Botanic Gardens of Indonesia" since its foundation in 1817, has a wider field of activities covering all that lives in nature, both on land and in the waters, this Institute would like to invite the Singapore Botanic Gardens to keep up a more extensive co-operation than the one dealing with the plant world only. I feel that the Singapore Botanic Gardens has a similar function in the State of Singapore as the Central Institute for Nature Research has in the Republic of Indonesia.

The integral task of the Central Institute for Nature Research in Indonesia can be outlined as follows:—

- (a) To conduct basic research and to give expert training in the field of natural sciences (Botany, Zoology, Ichthyology, Oceanography) under conditions prevailing in tropical areas, for the benefit of practical agriculture, horticulture, landscape architecture, forestry, conservation of nature and natural resources, veterinary science, fisheries and medicine.
- (b) To collect and to catalogue the plant and animal species occurring in Indonesia and the neighbouring areas, to select scientific names for them and to prepare monographs.
- (c) To exchange research material, scientific information and publications on the basis of international co-operation.
- (d) To provide Indonesian and foreign scientists with the accommodation and the facilities to perform research work in the various institutes.
- (e) To expedite the long-term project of the "Flora Malesiana" Foundation, i.e. to compile a standard work on the vegetation of the Republic of Indonesia and the neighbouring areas on the basis of international co-operation.

- (f) To protect and care for the natural resources of Indonesia as well as possible and to disseminate knowledge of nature conservation among the general public in accordance with the principles of the International Union for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources, of which the Botanic Gardens of Indonesia are a member.
- (g) To maintain a Zoological Museum, a Marine Aquarium, a Freshwater Aquarium, and a Biological Station for Animals Protected by National Laws, for the benefit of popular education.
- (h) To render advice on the lay-out of parks and gardens, their upkeep and embellishment.
- (i) To build up a Central Library for the Natural Sciences and to supply books and periodicals needed by the different institutes of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- (j) To carry out orders from the various institutes for making scientific pictures, films and drawings, and to train candidates in scientific photography and drawing.

The above mentioned task is carried out concordantly by the following institutes of the Central Institute for Nature Research:—

1. Hortus Botanicus, founded on 18th May, 1817.
 2. Herbarium Bogoriense, founded in 1817.
 3. Flora Malesiana Foundation, founded on 21st October, 1950.
 4. Treub Laboratory, founded in 1884.
 5. Institute for Microbiology, founded in 1956.
 6. Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, founded in 1894.
 7. Institute for the Conservation of Nature, founded in 1937.
 8. Biological Station for Animals Protected by National Laws, founded on 17th August, 1957.
 9. Institute and Aquarium for Marine Research, founded in 1904.
 10. Bibliotheca Bogoriensis, founded in 1842.
 11. Photographic and Drawing Studios, founded in 1878.
- All of which form one harmonious and inseparable unit.